

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, February 16. 1712.

PRAY Gentlemen, allow me one Review for an Act of Charity, in behalf of the Poor, under an Oppression, that I believe no Christian Man can read without Detestation.

In the last part of this Discourse, I introduc'd the Case of the poor Keel-Men of New-Castle, and their Oppressors, the Magistrates, Hoast-Men, and Fishers at New-Castle, and I promis'd there, to give the Petition which they Presented with their Case to her Majesty, and as it expresses their Case very fully, it may serve for an Abridgment of the present Affair; the Petition is as follows.

To the QUEEN's most Excellent Majesty.

The Humble Petition of the poor Skippers and Keel-Men Employ'd in Working of Keels, and carrying of Coals for the Loading of Ships in the River of Tyne, in the County of Northumberland, and in behalf of themselves, and of all the said Keel-Men and their numerous Families:

Humbly Sheweth,

“ **T**HAT your Petitioners being in
 “ Number above one Thousand five
 “ Hundred Men, and their Families, con-
 “ sidering

“ sidering the many Hazards and Dangers
 “ of their Employment, and other Acci-
 “ dents which frequently bring them, or
 “ their Widows and Children to Poverty
 “ and Distress, (the Burthen of which,
 “ would be too great for the Parishes where-
 “ in they Live, to support,) have Volunta-
 “ rily, and of their own Accord, agreed
 “ out of their Day-Labour to Pay and Con-
 “ tribute the Sum of One Penny per Tide
 “ for each Man, as often as the said Man
 “ Worked in the said River; which said
 “ Sum is, and has been duly paid for near
 “ Twelve Years past, into one Common
 “ Stock, for the Relief of such of their
 “ Number as have been, or shall be Poor,
 “ Aged, or Disabled, and the Widows
 “ and Children of such.

“ And whereas your Petitioners have
 “ suffer’d great Loss and Inconvenience by
 “ the Persons Entrusted with the said Mo-
 “ ney, by Mis-application, Embezzlements,
 “ Insolvencies, and other Disasters; by
 “ which Your Petitioners have been great-
 “ ly Injur’d, their Poor miserably Starved,
 “ their Hospital which they have-Built at
 “ their own Charge, entirely neglected,
 “ and the Charitable Design of their said
 “ Contribution, in danger of being Ruin’d
 “ and Destroy’d.

“ Your Petitioners therefore most hum-
 “ bly pray Your Majesty to take their
 “ sad and deplorable Condition into
 “ your Royal Consideration, and that
 “ Your Majesty would be Graciously
 “ pleas’d to Concurr in the Settling
 “ and Confirming their said Charita-
 “ ble Contribution, by Incorporating
 “ Your Petitioners into a Body, by
 “ the Name of the *Governour and So-
 “ ciety of the Shippers and Keel Men of
 “ the River of Tyne*; with such Pow-
 “ ers for Collecting and Receiving the
 “ said Contribution, for the Naming,
 “ and Choosing of Officers, and for
 “ the duly Applying the Money
 “ to the Uses for which it is Con-
 “ tributed; as to Your Majesty in

“ Your Great Wisdom shall seem
 “ meet.

And Your Petitioners shall ever Pray, &c.

*A True Copy,
 Christopher Musgrave.*

*John Ker, Steward
 of the Keel-Men's
 Hospital.*

*John Hodgson, } Keel-Men.
 Alexander Forbes, }*

This Petition being Presented to the
 Queen in Council, was referr’d by the
 Council to the *Attorney General*, as appears
 by the following Copy from the Books of
 the Council.

*UPON Reading this Day at the Board the
 humble Petition of the poor Shippers and
 Keel-Men, Employ’d in the working of
 Keels, and carrying of Coals for the Load-
 ing of Ships in the River of Tyne, in the
 County of Northumberland, in behalf of
 themselves and of all the said Keel-Men
 and their numerous Families, praying to be
 Incorporated into a Body, the better to ena-
 ble them to Collect, Receive, and Dispose
 of the Charitable Contributions rais’d a-
 mong themselves, as a Common-Stock for
 Relief of their Poor. It is order’d by Her
 Majesty in Council, That it be, And it
 is hereby Referr’d to Mr. Attorney-General
 to consider of the said Petition, and the
 Case thereunto Annexed, and to Report his
 Opinion to her Majesty at this Board, what
 is fit to be done thereupon.*

Christopher Musgrave.

While the Petition lies before the *Attor-
 ney General* to be consider’d, behold a Ca-
 veat is enter’d by the Magistrates of *New-
 Castle*, and when they come to be heard,
 they alledge, that the Keel-Men have chan-
 ged their Minds, and have Signed another
 Petition to the Parliament, That their Ho-
 spital may be under the Direction and Ge-
 vernment,

vernment of the said Magistrates of *New-Castle*.

Now tho' it was something Surprising, that Men should Petition to have their own Hands ty'd when they were free, and that they should desire to have the Direction of their own Charity taken from them, that so, instead of preserving their own Voters, in appointing who should or should not be Reliev'd by their own Money, they should desire that they might be left to the Mercy of the Magistrates, who Contributed not a Groat themselves, and to the *Host-Men* and *Fitters*, who have many Ways Injur'd and Oppress'd them, and to come perhaps on their Knees to them, for Admittance into their own Hospital; this was indeed Surprising, but when I receiv'd the Copy of a Petition from *New-Castle*, Sign'd by some of the same poor Men who were forc'd in to sign the other, it was no more a Mystery to me; and I here publish it, that it may no more be a Mystery to the rest of the World, the Original, as I hear, will suddenly be laid before the Parliament.

To the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeses and Commissioners, in Parliament Assembled.

The Humble Petition of the Skippers and Keel-Men of Newcastle and Parts Adjacent, being Employ'd in Working Keels for the carrying of Coals on the River Tyne.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT Your Petitioners, together with several Hundred other Skippers and Keel-Men as above, did join in a most Humble Petition to her Majesty, Representing our sad and deplorable Condition, with Respect to our Poor, for whom Provision had been made by us, from a certain Voluntary Contribution for their Subsistence, in Case of Age, Poverty, or Disaster; which said Provision is sunk and decay'd, and render'd Useless for want of a Regular Settlement, Management, and Di-

rection thereof; so that our Poor and Disabled Brethren and their Widows and Children, are miserably unprovided for, Perish and Starve, notwithstanding our having Built a large and Convenient Hospital, and having Contributed very large Sums of Money every Year for Relief; for Remedy whereof, we and our said Brethren, as above, did humbly Petition her Majesty, as aforesaid, to Grant Her Royal Charter of Incorporation, in Order to Empower us to Choose, Nominate, and Appoint one of our own Numbers, such proper Officers to Manage, Inspect, and Direct our said Voluntary Contribution and Hospital, as that our Poor might be regularly provided for, and the Misery and Ruin now they are Expos'd to, be prevented, as by our said Petition hereunto annexed may appear.

And that her Majesty having heard the said Petition, was graciously pleas'd to refer the same to the Attorney General to consider thereof, and Report his Opinion thereof, and of what was fit to be done therein; which said Petition lies still before her Majesty's said Attorney General. The Magistrates and Aldermen of *New-Castle* having desir'd to be heard, before the said Report should be made, alledging, That they had a Petition from us the said Skippers and Keel-Men, wherein we desir'd, that the Government and Direction of our said Contribution-Charity and Poor, might be Committed to the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Magistrates of *New-Castle*.

Now Your Petitioners humbly Represent to this Honourable House, that true it is, that We your underwritten Petitioners were, by great Promises of Favour, but especially by Threats of being Turn'd out of our Keels, and left Destitute of our Employments, prevail'd with by our Masters and Employers, the *Host-Men* and *Fitters*, who are also many of them Magistrates of *New-Castle*; to sign a Petition, not daring to do

" do otherways, for fear of losing our Em-
 " ployment, as abovesaid ; but we hum-
 " bly to Repreſent this Honourable Houſe,
 " that as we are but a few of the great
 " Body of the ſaid Skippers and Keel-Men,
 " who had Subſcribed the ſaid former Peti-
 " tion, and that our Circumſtances oblig'd
 " us to this baſe Retraſſing our former
 " Petition, and that at the ſame Time we
 " declar'd to the ſaid *Hoſt-Men* and *Fit-*
 " *ters*, &c. That their deſire of obtaining
 " the ſaid Government and Direction of
 " our Charity and Hoſpital was moſt Un-
 " juſt, and with Deſign to Oppreſs, Influe-
 " nce and Rule the whole Body of Skip-
 " pers and Keel-Men, with Reſpect to their
 " Rates and Preference in their Labour,
 " and that we ſhould declare the ſame to
 " the Parliament, if ever they offer'd to
 " Petition for the ſaid Government, &c.

" We therefore your poor Petitioners,
 " humbly crave leave to Retraſſ the
 " ſaid Petition, as being Forcibly,
 " Unjuſtly, and with Unlawful De-
 " ſign, Extorted from us ; and moſt
 " humbly implore this Honourable

" Houſe, to take the ſad and deplorable
 " Condition of the ſaid Skippers
 " and Keel-Men into your Conſide-
 " ration ; And that this Honourable
 " Houſe would become Interceſſors to
 " Her Maſteſty on their behalf, that
 " their ſaid Charter of Incorporation
 " may paſs according to the Prayer of
 " their aforeſaid Petition, and that
 " the Direction and Government of
 " their own Charity, which they ſpare
 " out of their dayly Labour, may be
 " left to themſelves, who only can
 " have a Legal, Juſt Claim to the
 " Diſpoſal thereof, and for want
 " whereof, their Poor are now Re-
 " duc'd to Inexpreſſible Miſery:

*And Your Petitioners as in Duty
 Bound, ſhall ever Pray, &c.*

I ſhall make ſome Remarks of this in my
 next ; I conclude with ſaying this only,
 that I wonder how any Men who had acted
 thus, could appear in the Face of a *British*
Parliament.

ADVERTISEMENT.

QUACKERY Unmask'd ; in 3 Parts, con-
 taining, 1. Reflections on the 7th Edition
 of Mr. Martin's Treatiſe of the
Veneal Diſeaſe. 2. An Examination of
 the *Charitable Surgeon*, The *Generous Sur-*
geon, The *Tomb of Venus*, and a pretended
 new Method of curing this Diſeaſe. 3. A
 brief Enquiry into the Ancient and preſent
 State of the Practices of Phyſick and Sur-
 gery ; a full Account of *Quacks* ; then (in
 a concise Method) is ſhewn the *Cauſe*, *Na-*
ture, *Signs*, and Dangerous *Effects* of this
Diſeaſe, various ways of *Receiving*, Symp-

tomes firſt *Diſcovering*, and only Method
 of preventing its Infection ; together with
 the beſt, moſt cheap, ſafe, ſpeedy, eaſie and
 private Methods of Cure. As alſo the *Cauſe*
and Cure of Old Gl... in Men, and *Weak-*
neſſes in Women. The Second Edition
 Enlarg'd. Sold by D. Brown without *Tem-*
ple-Bar, G. Strabun, at the *Golden-Ball* in
Cornhill, and B. Barker, in *Weſtminſter-Hall*
 and by the Author, Dr. Spilke, at his
 Houſe at the *Golden-Ball*, 3 Doors directly
 paſt the *Sun-Tavern*, in *Milk-ſtreet Market*,
Cheapſide. Price 2s.

Printed for, and ſold by John Baker at the *Black-Boy* in
Paſer-Noſter-Row. 1712.